

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU
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Studies in the News**

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

June 1910 “Luther Burbank, the plant wizard of Santa Rosa, announced yesterday the perfection of two flowers new to the world – a poppy called a *cenothera Burbankii* and a white evening primrose. His new creations will be produced at a ranch recently purchased at Lompoc, Santa Barbara county.... At Lompoc, Burbank will have an additional farm for experimenting. The seeds of the poppy and primrose have already been produced.” Los Angeles Times (June 7, 1910) p. I3.

June 1910 “Luther Burbank paid a visit to Ventura yesterday from the north, stopping to inspect the Shepherd gardens here. He was accompanied by W. Atlee Burpee, a Philadelphia seedman. Mr. Burbank denied that he contemplated locating on the Burpee Lompoc ranch. He said his headquarters would continue to be on his Santa Rosa farm, though he considered Southern California as one of the prime places in the world for the raising of seeds and plants and for experimenting.” Los Angeles Times (June 10, 1910) p. I15.

1910 “The work of Luther Burbank, the famous breeder of plants is more appreciated in Europe than in America, if the observation of Edmund Seateski, the Russian agriculturist, is correct.... Our eyes have been opened to the fact that America has taken the lead as an agricultural country. California products are widely known in Europe. We have a profound respect for Luther Burbank... Seateski, who is known to American agriculturalists as the originator of one of the most successful varieties of oats for dry farming, is in San Francisco on his way to Burbank’s estate at Santa Rosa.” Los Angeles Times (September 6, 1910) p. I15.

<http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/departments/recreationandparks/parks/lbhg/Pages/default.aspx>

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the California State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the California State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/sitn

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261); csinfo@library.ca.gov) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

CRIME PREVENTION

Evaluation of Target's Safe City Initiative: Implementing Public-Private Partnerships to Address Crime in Retail Settings. By Nancy G. La Vigne and others, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) April 2010. 323 p.

Full text at: <http://www.urban.org/publications/412081.html>

["In 2003, the Target Corporation partnered with the Minneapolis Police Department to tackle crime in a busy downtown area that was home to Target's corporate headquarters.... Safe City is a unique model in that Target aims to bring prospective partners together to introduce the concept and then quickly transfers leadership and ownership of the program to local law enforcement to drive the activities of the program, in partnership with the local retailers and civic partners. The program builds upon participating merchants' existing asset protection resources.... Analysis found increases in perceptions of safety among businesses in the designated Safe City area and cost-effective reductions in crime in two of the four sites. In one site, however, crime reductions were limited to specific crimes and coincided with increases in other types of crimes."]

[Request #S10-12-4924]

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DRUGS

National Drug Control Strategy. By the Office of National Drug Control Policy. (The Office, Washington, DC) 2010. 127 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/policy/ndcs10/ndcs2010.pdf>

["Endorsing a balance of prevention, treatment, and law enforcement, the Strategy calls for a 15-percent reduction in the rate of youth drug use over 5 years and similar reductions in chronic drug use and drug-related consequences such as drug deaths and drugged driving. Some brief highlights of the Strategy are: 1) Strengthen Efforts to Prevent Drug Use in Communities; 2) Seek Early Intervention Opportunities in Health Care; 3) Integrate Treatment for Substance Use Disorders into Health Care, and Expand Support for Recovery; 4) Break the Cycle of Drug Use, Crime, Delinquency, and Incarceration; 5) Disrupt Domestic Drug Trafficking and Production; 6) Strengthen International Partnerships; and 7) Improve Information Systems for Analysis, Assessment, and Local Management."]

[Request #S10-12-4895]

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JAILS

Annual Report on Conditions Inside Men's Central Jail, 2008-2009. By Mary Tiedeman and Daniel Ballon, the American Civil Liberties Union. (The Union, New York, New York) May 6, 2010. 68 p.

Full text at: <http://www.aclu.org/files/assets/2010-5-5-AnnualReport-JailConditionsatMCJ.pdf>

["Scores of inmates at Men's Central Jail have alleged serious physical abuse by deputies. The extent of abuse at the downtown Los Angeles facility is impossible to gauge because of the jail's lack of transparency. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said the Sheriff's Department refuses to share information on the number of investigated use-of-force incidents and their findings.... The ACLU report, spanning a 12-month period from 2008 to 2009, was based on weekly visits to the facility, and scores of inmate complaints. Complaints detailed direct assaults from deputies and prisoner attacks orchestrated by guards. The report suggested cutting down the number of inmates by releasing some inmates from the facility and monitoring them through electronic devices and drug and mental health programs." Los Angeles Times (May 5, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-12-4878]

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PRISONS

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: Inmates Sentenced Under the Three Strikes Law and a Small Number of Inmates Receiving Specialty Health Care Represent Significant Costs. By the California Bureau of State Audits. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) May 2010. 80 p.

Full text at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2009-107.2.pdf>

["Specialty health care for prisoners cost the state \$734 million in 2007-08, a figure that advocates say bolsters the case for a medical parole system for incapacitated inmates. The audit also found that just one-half of 1 percent of the prisoners during that fiscal year, or 1,175 inmates, incurred 39 percent of the specialty health care costs. Moreover, the audit found nearly 32 percent of health-related overtime costs, or \$136 million, were related to guarding and transporting inmates for care. Ways to reduce prison health costs could include 'a review of the program that allows for the early release of terminally ill or medically incapacitated inmates, and other possible means of altering the ways in which inmates are housed without unduly increasing the risk to the public,' the audit said." Sacramento Bee (May 19, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-12-4923]

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DEMOGRAPHY

POPULATION

Unauthorized Aliens in the United States. By Andorra Bruno, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) April 27, 2010. 26 p.

Full text at: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R41207_20100427.pdf

[“Demographers develop estimates about unauthorized aliens using available survey data on the U.S. foreign-born population. These estimates can help inform possible policy options to address the unauthorized alien population. According to recent estimates by the Department of Homeland Security, approximately 10.8 million unauthorized aliens were living in the United States in January 2009. Using different sources, the Pew Hispanic Center has estimated the March 2008 unauthorized resident population at about 11.9 million. The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and other federal laws place various restrictions on unauthorized aliens. They have no legal right to live or work in the United States and are subject to removal from the country. At the same time, the INA provides limited avenues for certain unauthorized aliens to obtain legal permanent residence.”][Request #S10-12-4916]

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ECONOMY

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Kauffman Index of Entrepreneurial Activity. By Robert W. Fairlie, University of California, Santa Cruz. (Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Kansas City, Missouri) May 2010. 28 p.

Full text at: http://www.kauffman.org/uploadedfiles/kiea_2010_report.pdf

["Rather than making history for its deep recession and record unemployment, 2009 might instead be remembered as the year business startups reached their highest level in 14 years – even exceeding the number of startups during the peak 1999-2000 technology boom.... Challenging economic times can serve as a motivational boost to individuals who have been laid-off to become their own employers and future job creators. Entrepreneurship rates by race show that African-Americans experienced the largest increase in entrepreneurial activity between 2008 and 2009. Rising from 0.22 percent in 2008 to 0.27 percent in 2009, the rate was the highest over the 14 years of reported data but remains below other racial groups. In contrast, both Latinos and Asians experienced declines in entrepreneurial activity rates."][Request #S10-12-4933]

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE

International Trade Trends & Impacts: The Southern California Region (2010).
By Jack Kyser and others, Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation. AND: Growing Together: China and Los Angeles County. By Nancy D. Sidhu and others, Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation. (The Corporation, Los Angeles, California) May 2010.

["Cargo shipments through Los Angeles' massive port complex are expected to increase 10 percent this year as international trade climbs out of the depths of the recession. The number of containers shipped through the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach will jump from 11.8 million in 2009 to 13 million this year. In fact, the \$283 billion value of two-way trade in 2009 was a drop of more than 20 percent from the previous year as the recession spread around the world. Although imports and exports are expected to increase by 8 and 12 percent, respectively, job growth in related industries is expected to lag. However, job growth of 3.5 percent is expected next year, which would generate 17,300 new jobs for the region." Torrance Daily Breeze (May 11, 2010) 1.][Request #S10-12-4928]

International trade trends. 70 p.

<http://www.laedc.org/reports/Trade-2010.pdf>

China and Los Angeles. 147 p.

http://www.laedc.org/reports/GrowingTogether_China_2010.pdf

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MEDIA INDUSTRY

Next Generation Unionism and the Future of Newspapers: Networking, Entrepreneurship and Hybrid Ownership. By Chris Benner, University of California, Davis, and others. (Human and Community Development Center for Regional Change, Davis, California) April 2010. 56 p.

Full text at:

http://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/publications/newspaper_report_final.pdf

["Newspapers will have to change to survive, moving away from the rote patterns that have driven the industry over the last century and embracing innovation, online networking and different business models.... Newspapers should explore creating a nonprofit arm that would allow them to accept donations from foundations and individuals. Newspaper employee unions should change their role and become more like 'business partners' with -- instead of adversaries of -- the company's owners. Newspapers should do away with the strict separation between newsgathering and advertising that has traditionally defined quality journalism. The industry should explore 'entrepreneurial reporting and salesmanship' in which journalists use their extensive contacts and community knowledge to identify new revenue-generating opportunities." Sacramento Bee (May 27, 2010) 1.][Request #S10-12-4925]

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WOMEN

Advancing the Economic Security of Unmarried Women: Overview of Laws and Legislation in the 111th Congress. By Liz Weiss, Center for American Progress, and Page Gardner, Women's Voices, Women Vote. (The Center, Washington, DC) March 2010. 68 p.

Full text at:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/03/pdf/unmarried_women.pdf

["With so many women living on their own, it is crucial that lawmakers take seriously unmarried women's economic security needs. Unfortunately, the economic circumstances of unmarried women are troubling. They face greater economic insecurity compared to the general population or their married counterparts by almost any measure. They must confront disproportionate unemployment, poverty, and lack of health insurance, as well as other hardships. Despite being just under half of the female population, they represent 63 percent of unemployed women, 60 percent of women without health insurance, and three-quarters of women in poverty.... Fortunately, many current and proposed policies will benefit unmarried women. This report outlines an economic security agenda for unmarried women that focuses on the key areas of legislation that would benefit them."][Request #S10-12-4738]

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EDUCATION

EDUCATION FINANCE

They Spend WHAT? The Real Cost of Public Schools. By Adam B. Schaeffer, Cato Center for Educational Freedom. (The Center, Washington, DC) March 10, 2010. 32 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa662.pdf>

["Although public schools are usually the biggest item in state and local budgets, spending figures provided by public school officials and reported in the media often leave out major costs of education and thus understate what is actually spent. To document the phenomenon, this paper reviews district budgets and state records for the nation's five largest metro areas and the District of Columbia. It reveals that, on average, per-pupil spending in these areas is 44 percent higher than officially reported. Real spending per pupil ranges from a low of nearly \$12,000 in the Phoenix area schools to a high of nearly \$27,000 in the New York metro area. The gap between real and reported per-pupil spending ranges from a low of 23 percent in the Chicago area to a high of 90 percent in the Los Angeles metro region."][Request #S10-12-4686]

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Close the Hidden Funding Gaps in Our Schools. By Daria Hall and Natasha Ushomirsky, Education Trust. (The Trust, Washington, DC) April 2010. 7 p.

Full text at:

http://www.edtrust.org/sites/edtrust.org/files/publications/files/Hidden%20Funding%20Gaps_0.pdf

["Many states have made progress in closing the funding gaps between affluent school districts and those serving the highest concentrations of low-income children. But a hidden funding gap between high-poverty and low-poverty schools persists between schools within the same district.... Federal law permits hidden funding gaps to persist between high-poverty schools and more affluent counterparts within the same district. These gaps occur partly because teachers in wealthier schools tend to earn more than their peers in high-poverty schools and because of pressure to 'equalize' other resources across schools. By closing loopholes in the comparability provisions of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Congress could promote funding equity within school district budgets."]

[Request #S10-12-4759]

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Financing Basic Skills Education in California. By Vicky Lovell and Barbara Baran, California Budget Project. (The Project, Sacramento, California) April 2010. 12 p.

Full text at: http://cbp.org/pdfs/2010/1004_Financing_Basic_Skills.pdf

["This review of California's basic skills financing suggests that the state could benefit from a comprehensive evaluation of its investment in basic skills education, from the level and distribution of funding to the system's main objectives. The state's ongoing budget crisis has seriously threatened the adult education program and community college basic skills programs both through direct funding cuts and by allowing funding to be shifted from basic skills to other programs. Over the next several years, school districts and community colleges will make difficult decisions about reducing enrollment, courses, and support services as they to respond to their new funding constraints. However, as the budget crunch forces changes across the state, it also presents an opportunity to consider reforms that could increase efficiency and improve student outcomes."]

[Request #S10-12-4832]

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EMPLOYMENT

JOB TRAINING

Moving from Short-Term Jobs to Long-Term Skills: Priorities for Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization. By Louis Soares, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) May 2010. 7 p.

Full text at: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/05/pdf/wia_column.pdf

[“The Workforce Investment Act funded programs are designed to help unify a fragmented set of employment and training programs and create a single, universal system -- a one-stop shop with local centers that can serve all job seekers needs, particularly those who are low skill, low income, and unemployed. The WIA one-stop system brings together 16 categories of programs from four separate federal entities: the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Housing and Urban Development.... WIA services focus on short-term crisis intervention -- helping people re-enter the workforce quickly rather than counseling workers and helping them receive the training and education they need to find a long-term, well-paying job.”]

[Request #S10-12-4920]

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LABOR UNIONS

Unions and Upward Mobility for Immigrant Workers. By John Schmitt, Center for Economic and Policy Research. (The Center, Washington, DC) March 2010. 16 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/unions-immigrants-2010-03.pdf>

[“This report reviews the characteristics of the immigrant workforce and analyzes the impact of unionization on the pay and benefits of immigrant workers. According to the most recent available data, immigrant workers are now over 15 percent of the workforce and almost 13 percent of unionized workers. Even after controlling for systematic differences between union and non-union workers, union representation substantially improves the pay and benefits received by immigrants.”]

[Request #S10-12-4809]

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LOW-WAGE WORKERS

Improving Education and Employment for Disadvantaged Young Men: Proven and Promising Strategies. By Carolyn J. Heinrich, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Harry J. Holzer, Georgetown Public Policy Institute. (The Urban Institute, Washington, DC) May 2010. 43 p.

Full text at: <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412086-disadvantaged-young-men.pdf>

["Low high school graduation rates and sharply declining employment rates continue to plague disadvantaged youth, especially young men. We review the evidence on programs and policies such as youth development for adolescents and young teens; programs seeking to improve educational attainment and employment for in-school youth; and programs that try to 'reconnect' those who are out of school and frequently out of work, including public employment programs. We identify a number of programmatic strategies that are promising or even proven, based on rigorous evaluations, for disadvantaged youth with different circumstances."]

[Request #S10-12-4934]

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YOUTH

The Class of 2010: Economic Prospects for Young Adults in the Recession. By Josh Bivens and others, Economic Policy Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) May 11, 2010. 14 p.

Full text at: http://epi.3cdn.net/bf2c1bd6ad4b54f216_gam6ii89y.pdf

["This paper documents several aspects of the grim labor market situation facing young graduates. The main findings are: 1) Unemployment rates for both college graduates and non-graduates younger than 25 are nearly double their pre-recession levels; 2) Since the start of the recession, the youth labor force (workers age 16 to 24) has contracted by 1.1 million workers, and an additional 1.2 million 16-24-year-olds have become disconnected from both formal schooling and work; 3) Most young adults that come across hard economic times will fall through the large gaps in the public safety net; and 4) Contrary to arguments that higher federal budget deficits burden future generations, rising public debt that finances efforts to boost economic recovery will minimize the deep economic scarring caused by the recession and increase future earnings for young workers."]

[Request #S10-12-4913]

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ENERGY

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Advancing Clean Energy: A Report of the Clean Energy States Grant Program. By Andrew Kambour and others, National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. (The Association, Washington, DC) April 2010. 36 p.

Full text at: [Advancing Clean Energy](#)

["As a component of the 2007-2008 National Governors Association's Securing a Clean Energy Future initiative, 12 states were selected through a competitive process to receive \$50,000 grants to help advance a clean energy project of their choosing. The objective of the grant program was twofold: to assist states in exploring and expanding new techniques for promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean transportation, and to help other states learn how innovative clean energy programs are being implemented at the state level.... The states profiled in the report took a variety of approaches to advancing clean energy with a focus on: improving energy efficiency in new buildings; improving energy efficiency in existing buildings; expanding renewable electricity generation and distribution; or promoting cleaner transportation fuels and vehicles."]
[Request #S10-12-4937]

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ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Annual Energy Outlook 2010, With Projections to 2035. By the Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy. (The Administration, Washington, DC) April 2010. 231 p.

Full text at: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/pdf/0383%282010%29.pdf>

["In 2009, U.S. energy markets continued to show the impacts of the economic downturn that began in late 2007.... The projections focus on the factors that shape U.S. energy markets in the long term. Under the assumption that current laws and regulations remain unchanged throughout the projections, the reference case provides the basis for examination and discussion of energy market trends and the direction they may take in the future.... Key results include moderate growth in energy consumption, increased use of renewables, declining reliance on imported liquid fuels, strong growth in shale gas production, and projected slow growth in energy-related carbon dioxide emissions in the absence of new policies designed to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions."]
[Request #S10-12-4935]

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RENEWABLE ENERGY

Western Wind and Solar Integration Study. By GE Energy. Prepared for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. (The Laboratory, Golden, Colorado) May 2010.

[“The report, conducted over a 3-year period, focused on how the WestConnect power grid would respond if 35 percent of its electricity was generated by renewable sources. ‘You need to make some significant changes to operational practice to accommodate wind and solar, but you don’t need a whole lot of additional infrastructure to handle that,’ said Debbie Lew, a senior project manager at NREL. Wind and solar power together make up less than 3 percent of the total U.S. power generation, but both are growing rapidly amid a range of state and federal incentives. Instead of large-scale spending on new infrastructure, Lew said utilities could increase coordination over a wider geographic area to cut the volatility that wind and solar tend to add.” Reuters (May 20, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-12-4922]

Report. 536 p.

http://www.nrel.gov/wind/systemsintegration/pdfs/2010/wwsis_final_report.pdf

Executive Summary. 40 p.

http://www.nrel.gov/wind/systemsintegration/pdfs/2010/wwsis_executive_summary.pdf

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Advancing the Science of Climate Change. AND: Limiting the Magnitude of Climate Change. AND: Adapting to the Impacts of Climate Change. By the National Research Council. (The Council, Washington, DC) May 2010. Various pagings.

Full text at: <http://americasclimatechoices.org/>

["In a sharp change from its cautious approach in the past, the National Academy of Sciences called for taxes on carbon emissions, a cap-and-trade program for such emissions or some other strong action to curb runaway global warming. Such actions, which would increase the cost of using coal and petroleum -- at least in the immediate future -- are necessary because 'climate change is occurring, the Earth is warming ... concentrations of carbon dioxide are increasing, and there are very clear fingerprints that link [those effects] to humans,' said Pamela A. Matson of Stanford University, who chaired one of five panels organized by the academy at the request of Congress to look at the science of climate change and how the nation should respond." Los Angeles Times (May 20, 2010) 1.][Request #S10-12-4950]

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AGRICULTURE

Farms Here, Forests There: Tropical Deforestation and U.S. Competitiveness in Agriculture and Timber. By Shari Friedman, David Gardiner & Associates . (Avoided Deforestation Partners, Berkeley, California) May 2010. 56 p.

Full text at: <http://www.adpartners.org/agriculture/>

["Stopping global deforestation would boost U.S. agricultural revenue by \$190 billion to \$270 billion through 2030 by cutting unfair competition. Deforestation accounts for about a fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions, chiefly from the destruction of tropical forests.... Many climate change legislation proponents see a boom in green industries, such as alternative energy, and cutting energy costs through better efficiency, but farmers have been skeptical about the benefit to them from such a law. Eliminating deforestation would cut into the flood of cheap commodities and also slow the expansion of agriculture on land cleared by the age-old slash-and-burn method. U.S. timber, soybean, oilseed and beef industries in particular would benefit, the report said." Reuters (May 28, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-12-4953]

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OIL SPILLS

Oil Spills in U.S. Coastal Waters: Background, Governance, and Issues for Congress. By Jonathan L. Ramseur, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) April 30, 2010. 38 p.

Full text at: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33705_20100430.pdf

["The Exxon Valdez spill highlighted the need for stronger legislation, inflamed public sentiment, and spurred Congress to enact comprehensive oil spill legislation, resulting in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-380). This law expanded and clarified the authority of the federal government and created new oil spill prevention and preparedness requirements.... Oil spills can cause impacts over a range of time scales, from only a few days to several years, or even decades in some cases. This report reviews the history and trends of oil spills in the United States; identifies the legal authorities governing oil spill prevention, response, and cleanup; and examines the threats of future oil spills in U.S. coastal waters."]
[Request #S10-12-4949]

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WATER RIGHTS

Environmental Water Markets: Restoring Streams Through Trade. By Brandon Scarborough, Property and Environment Research Center. (The Center, Bozeman, California) April 2010. 48 p.

Full text at: <http://www.perc.org/files/ps46.pdf>

["Western water law is a bit peculiar. It provides limited usage rights to parties who have legal claims on water. The traditional rules worked well in an agricultural economy. But, as changes in values evolved, some limits inherent in the prior appropriation doctrine have become apparent. It was, and still can be, difficult to change the use of water from its historic designation to one with greater value. Such is the case for restoring instream flows through water markets.... Water rights have evolved in recent years as parties express desires to sell, lease, or give water for environmental or recreational purposes. Some states have assisted in the move to expanded water rights, others have been less supportive. This Policy Series provides guidance for improving the legal environment for parties who wish to engage in the beneficial exchange of water rights."][Request #S10-12-4954]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

PROPOSITION 13

System Failure: California's Loophole-Ridden Commercial Property Tax. By Lenny Goldberg, California Tax Reform Association, and David Kersten, Kersten Communications. (The Association, Sacramento, California) May 2010. 123 p.

Full text at:

http://www.caltaxreform.org/pdf_ppt/SystemFailureFinalReportMay2010.pdf

["Corporations have contributed a steadily decreasing portion of the state's property taxes since Proposition 13 was approved three decades ago, even as the share paid by homeowners has risen.... Proposition 13 capped how much property taxes can increase each year unless a property changes hands. Corporations have taken advantage of the state's Byzantine property-transfer rules to keep from having land reassessed more frequently. Unlike when homes are bought and sold, it can be less clear when commercial and industrial property changes hands, putting the burden on county assessors to track stock sales and news accounts of mergers. Another complication is when several firms divvy up stakes in a company, confounding state law that says property changes hands only after one entity obtains majority control." San Jose Mercury News (May 9, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-12-4960]

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Out of Balance? Comparing Public and Private Sector Compensation Over 20 Years. By Keith A. Bender and John S. Heywood, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. (Center for State and Local Government Excellence, Washington, DC) April 2010. 28 p.

Full text at: [Out of Balance](#)

[“State and local workers are compensated less than their private sector counterparts.... Although a comparison of unadjusted average earnings will show that wages are higher among jobs in state and local government, this result is largely due to the fact that the workers in those sectors have more education. Holding education and other characteristics the same, typical state and local workers earn an average of 11 percent less and 12 percent less, respectively, than comparable private sector workers.... Workers in the state and local sector receive a slightly larger share of their compensation in benefits, but it is not dramatically larger. When we account for this difference, most of the estimates remain negative, suggesting lower total compensation in state and local sectors after accounting for worker and job characteristics.”]

[Request #S10-12-4929]

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The Wage Penalty for State and Local Government Employees. By John Schmitt, Center for Economic and Policy Research. (The Center, Washington, DC) May 2010. 20 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/wage-penalty-2010-05.pdf>

[“As recent reports in the media have emphasized, on average, state and local government employees appear to earn more than private-sector workers. But, on average, state and local workers are also older and substantially better educated than private sector workers.... When state and local government employees are compared to private-sector workers with similar characteristics -- particularly when workers are matched by age and education -- state and local workers actually earn 4 percent less, on average, than their private-sector counterparts. For women workers, the public-sector penalty is about 2 percent of earnings; for men, it is about 6 percent of earnings. The wage penalty for working in the state-and-local sector is particularly large for higher-wage workers.”]

[Request #S10-12-4918]

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REDEVELOPMENT

Redevelopment Fund Estimates Create Billion-Dollar Confusion for Policymakers. By Nancy Vogel and others, Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes. Prepared for the Senate Rules Committee. (The Office, Sacramento, California) May 3, 2010. 29 p.

Full text at:

<http://www3.senate.ca.gov/deployedfiles/vcm2007/senoversight/docs/report%20on%20redevelopment%20agency.pdf>

[“By law, California’s 424 redevelopment agencies must use at least 20% of the property tax money they collect to create, preserve and rehabilitate homes for people of limited means. Nearly \$2 billion a year flow into the so-called ‘low- and moderate-income housing funds’ of redevelopment agencies. But state officials have no clear picture of the status of that money. The picture is muddled by the inconsistent information two state agencies separately collect about the low- and moderate housing funds of individual redevelopment agencies. The data-collection systems of the State Controller and the Department of Housing and Community Development use different structures and approaches.... A large gap has long existed in the state’s two estimates of uncommitted housing funds. The latest information, from 2007-08, shows a \$1.3 billion discrepancy.”]

[Request #S10-12-4876]

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TAXES

Audit the Tax Code: Doing What Works for Tax Expenditures. By Sima J. Gandhi, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) April 13, 2010. 24 p.

Full text at:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/dww_tax_expenditures.html

[“The government funds programs in two ways. First, there’s straightforward direct spending -- money comes in and the government directly spends it or distributes it to others to spend. Then there are tax expenditures. These expenditures are used to accomplish the same goals as direct spending -- they provide incentives for desired behavior, support needed services, and assist certain individuals, groups, or companies. But, unlike direct spending, tax expenditures transfer money by lowering an individual or company’s taxes.... Many tax expenditures are not evaluated for effectiveness or regularly scrutinized in the budget process. This uneven treatment should change. Tax expenditures are spending programs implemented through the tax code. The cost of tax expenditure programs has skyrocketed over the last two decades.”][Request #S10-12-4815]

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HEALTH

FOOD SAFETY

Herbal Dietary Supplements: Examples of Deceptive or Questionable Marketing Practices and Potentially Dangerous Advice. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-10-662T. (The Office, Washington, DC) May 26, 2010. 28 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10662t.pdf>

[“Certain dietary supplements commonly used by the elderly were deceptively or questionably marketed. FDA statutes and regulations do not permit sellers to make claims that their products can treat, prevent, or cure specific diseases. However, in several cases, written sales materials for products sold through online retailers claimed that herbal dietary supplements could treat, prevent, or cure conditions such as diabetes, cancer, or cardiovascular disease. When GAO shared these claims with the Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Trade Commission, both agreed that the claims were improper and likely in violation of statutes and regulations.... GAO also found trace amounts of at least one potentially hazardous contaminant in 37 of the 40 herbal dietary supplement products tested, though none in amounts considered to pose an acute toxicity hazard.”]
[Request #S10-12-4917]

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No Silver Lining: An Investigation into Bisphenol A in Canned Foods. By the National Workgroup for Safe Markets. (Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow, Boston, Massachusetts) May 2010. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://ej4all.org/contaminatedwithoutconsent/downloads/NoSilverLining-Report.pdf>

[“This report provides new data about the amount of bisphenol A (BPA) that could be consumed from eating canned food and drinks available in the U.S. and Canada. BPA was detected in 46 of 50, or 92%, of the canned food samples. BPA exposure is particularly of concern for pregnant women, for babies, and for children. BPA levels in canned food cannot be predicted by the price of the product, the quality, or relative nutrition value of the product, or where it was purchased.... There are other BPA-free container options, including glass and less toxic plastics (some are on the market and others are under development). Safer substitutions would help to break the cycle of chemical contamination and the myriad health problems linked to chronic, daily BPA exposures.”]
[Request #S10-12-4910]

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HEALTH CARE FINANCE

California Task Force on Affordable Care: Creating a High Value Healthcare System for California. By Micah Weinberg and Leif Wellington Haase, New America Foundation. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) May 2010. 56 p.

Full text at:

<http://california.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/CaliforniaHighValueApril10Web.pdf>

[“It is vital to build quickly on the cost-controlling elements of federal legislation as California’s rising healthcare spending has reached a tipping point.... Getting good value for medical spending means purchasing healthcare of the highest possible quality for the lowest possible cost.... California must act in concert with federal efforts to: 1) Financially reward providers and payers for improving health outcomes; 2) Significantly reduce administrative expenses that do not improve health; 3) Create meaningful choices for health consumers; and 4) Improve the environments in which Californians work, play, and socialize. Successfully implementing policies consistent with these recommendations could save as much as \$305 billion during the next 10 years and help move us closer to the goal of guaranteed access to affordable high-quality healthcare for all Californians.”]
[Request #S10-12-4952]

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

What Will Happen Under Health Reform -- And What’s Next? By Karen Davis and others, The Commonwealth Fund. (The Fund, New York, New York) May 2010. 12 p.

Full text at:

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Other/2010/2010_CJR_insert_What_Next_web_415.pdf

[“Newly enacted national health reform will begin, almost immediately, to transform the U.S. health care system in ways large and small. The changes will increase the number of people with health insurance, and affect how many of us obtain coverage, how care is paid for and delivered, and how it is regulated. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 preserves the current private-public system of employer-based coverage, Medicare, and Medicaid and creates income based subsidies to make coverage affordable to low- and middle-income families without employer coverage. Many major features of reform begin to take effect in 2010.”]

[Request #S10-12-4881]

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HOUSING

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Worst Case Housing Needs, 2007: A Report to Congress. By David L. Hardiman and others. Prepared for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (The Department, Washington, DC) May 2010. 112 p.

Full text at: http://www2.huduser.org/Publications/pdf/worstcase_HsgNeeds07.pdf

["The report provides national data and information on critical problems facing low-income American renting families. It is important to note that the report is based on data from 2007, before the full repercussions of the U.S. mortgage market crisis were felt across the broader economy. This year's report shows that the number of worst case needs households remained effectively flat, with levels still 18 percent higher than in 2000. Worst case needs remains an equal opportunity problem, with significant incidence across races, family types, geographic regions, and boundaries of cities, suburbs and rural areas. In addition, the report highlights the critical role that unit availability, and not just market supply alone, plays in determining burdens. For the very lowest income groups, there is an insufficient and shrinking supply of affordable rental housing."]

[Request #S10-12-4938]

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BANKRUPTCY

The Foreclosure Crisis: Did Wall Street Practice Predatory Lending or Did Households Overreach? By Kathy Fogel and others, University of Arkansas. (The University, Fayetteville, Arkansas) April 2010. 28 p.

Full text at: <http://waltoncollege.uark.edu/finn/PredatoryLendingOverreaching.pdf>

["Did banks prey on unwitting consumers, or did households overreach and borrow more than they could afford? A new study by University of Arkansas economists suggests the latter. The researchers found that most households in foreclosure were relatively affluent and highly educated people, with few or no children, living in geographical areas that experienced extremely rapid real-estate appreciation -- the housing bubble. Although they found some evidence of predatory lending, the authors concluded that a more accurate explanation of the foreclosure crisis was that consumers overreached and bought more housing than they could afford. The researchers were careful not to excuse Wall Street banks, however, because reckless lending enabled households to become dangerously leveraged." Arkansas Newswire (May 6, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-12-4915]

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HUMAN SERVICES

CALWORKS

Understanding CalWORKs: A Primer for Service Providers and Policymakers.
By Diane F. Reed and Kate Karpilow, California Center for Research on
Women and Families. (The Center, Oakland, California) April 2010. 44 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ccrwf.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/ccrwf-calworks-primer-2nd-edition.pdf>

[“This primer provides an in-depth orientation to the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Act, known as CalWORKs. Included in this review are: 1) an overview of the federal and state laws and agencies that govern or affect welfare and welfare-to-work programs; 2) information on the program structure and funding streams of county CalWORKs programs; 3) a profile of California’s CalWORKs families; and 4) a summary of key issues under discussion by federal, state, and local policymakers.... Congress is scheduled to deliberate reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. California’s policymakers and advocates will not only be important stakeholders in this debate; they will also be responsible for working together to modify CalWORKs, California’s TANF program, to align with changes in the federal law.”]
[Request #S10-12-4936]

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CHILDREN

"The Relationship between Witnessing Arrests and Elevated Symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress: Findings from a National Study of Children Involved in the Child Welfare System." By Susan D. Phillips and Jian Zhao. *IN: Children and Youth Services Review*, doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2010.04.015. (April 2010)
Various pagings.

Full text at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/B6V98-4YXK074-2/2/c7ef5784ebf3c7f0839173f9be0ee21f>

["Results show that the children child welfare authorities encounter who have witnessed arrests are significantly more likely to have also (1) witnessed multiple types of violence in their homes, (2) been victims of multiple types of violence, (3) witnessed non-violent crimes, and (4) lived in families having problems meeting children's basic needs. Results of multivariate analyses indicate that, all else being equal, witnessing the arrest of a household member either alone or in conjunction with the recent arrest of a parent is predictive of elevated posttraumatic symptoms. Approximately 1 in 4 children who witnessed an arrest and also had a recently arrested parent had elevated symptoms of posttraumatic stress."]
[Request #S10-12-4940]

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FOSTER CARE

Foster Care in California: Achievements and Challenges. By Caroline Danielson and Helen Lee, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) May 2010. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=905>

["Data show that the state has made great progress in moving children out of foster care. Since 2000, there has been a 45 percent drop in the share of California children in the system, a reduction achieved largely through shortening the time that most children spend in foster care.... The decline has been most pronounced among black children, who have long been overrepresented in the child welfare system.... The system still faces significant challenges. Payments to foster families and other out-of-home care providers have not kept up with inflation. Despite the reduction in the proportion of black children in the system, they are still substantially overrepresented.... And, despite the significant reductions, the number of children who age out of the system -- often facing uncertain futures with too little adult guidance -- has actually risen since the beginning of the decade."]

[Request #S10-12-4932]

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TEEN PREGNANCY

"Winning Campaign: California's Concerted Effort To Reduce Its Teen Pregnancy Rate." By Heather D. Boonstra. IN: *Guttmacher Policy Review*, vol. 13, no. 2 (Spring 2010) pp. 18-24.

Full text at: <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/gpr/13/2/gpr130218.pdf>

["California had the nation's steepest decline in teen pregnancy rates between 1992 and 2005, down 52 percent. California had the nation's highest rate in 1992, 157 pregnancies for every 1,000 women in the 15-19 age cohort, but by 2005 the rate had been reduced to 75, the lowest rate in recorded state history. 'Public health experts in California credit teen pregnancy prevention efforts dating back to the 1990s for the state's record declines,' the report says. 'California -- the only state that never accepted federal abstinence-only dollars -- has made teen pregnancy prevention a high public policy priority, with a strong emphasis on providing teens with comprehensive sex education and on fostering their access to the information and health care services they need to prevent pregnancy and protect their health.'"]

[Request #S10-12-4941]

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TRANSPORTATION

GREEN HOUSE GASES

Potential Design, Implementation, and Benefits of a Feebate Program for New Passenger Vehicles in California: Interim Statement of Research Findings. By David S. Bunch and David L. Greene, University of California, Davis. Prepared for the California Air Resources Board. (The University, Davis, California) May 2010. 43 p.

Full text at: http://pubs.its.ucdavis.edu/publication_detail.php?id=1400

["Feebates are a market-based policy for reducing emissions from passenger vehicles. A one-time fee is levied on relatively high-emitting vehicles when they are sold new. These funds are used to provide rebates for lower-emitting vehicles when they are sold new. As required in the scoping plan for the state's climate change law, AB 32, ARB undertook this comprehensive study to consider measures that could be used as alternatives or complements to direct regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from new passenger vehicles.... Overall, our study suggests that feebates do have the potential to provide California with additional greenhouse gas emission reductions at negative cost, however this effect will depend on the design of the feebate program and stringency of concurrent GHG standards."]
[Request #S10-12-4961]

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Transportation's Role in Reducing U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Report to Congress. By the Center for Climate Change and Environmental Forecasting, U.S. Department of Transportation. (The Department, Washington, DC) April 2010. 605 p.

Full text at:

http://ntl.bts.gov/lib/32000/32700/32779/DOT_Climate_Change_Report_-_April_2010_-_Volume_1_and_2.pdf

["This study evaluates potentially viable strategies to reduce transportation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It also examines the potential impact of these strategies on air quality, petroleum savings, transportation goals, costs, and other factors. Each GHG reduction strategy may have various positive impacts (including co-benefits) or negative impacts on these factors. Potential tradeoffs and interdependencies when reducing GHG emissions will need to be considered in order to develop balanced solutions. This study does not take a position as to which strategy, or collection of strategies, should be adopted to accomplish the Nation's clean energy and GHG reduction goals. Rather, the study attempts to objectively examine numerous proposed strategies and assess their potential to reduce transportation GHG emissions."][Request #S10-12-4947]

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TRAFFIC CONGESTION

International Scan: Reducing Congestion & Funding Transportation Using Road Pricing. By Bob Arnold, Federal Highway Administration, and others. (The Administration, Washington, DC) April 2010. 20 p.

Full text at: <http://international.fhwa.dot.gov/pubs/roadpricing/roadpricing.pdf>

["The broad application of congestion pricing in the U.S. has been limited due to political, institutional and public acceptance concerns.... While there are a number of basic objectives that may underlie a road pricing program, the scan team focused on two primary purposes of road pricing: (1) to manage demand and (2) to generate revenue.... The scan included visits to meet with representatives from urban and nation-wide road pricing efforts in Stockholm, London, Singapore, Germany, the Czech Republic, and the Netherlands. Findings from this scan are intended to focus attention on the potential for road pricing as an effective part of a sustainable 21st century transportation system."]

[Request #S10-12-4962]

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TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

SB 375 Impact Analysis Report. By the Urban Land Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) June 2010. 20 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.uli.org/~media/Documents/ResearchAndPublications/Reports/Sustainable%20Development/SB375ImpactAnalysisReport.ashx>

["If California's sweeping greenhouse emissions reduction law, SB 375, is to succeed, the state will have to do a better job of providing public transportation. The 2009 law, known as the Sustainable Communities Strategy, and based in part on Sacramento's 'Blueprint' land use process, requires metropolitan areas to design growth so that new communities are less dependent on automobiles. Improving the service levels and ongoing investment in transit capital improvements and operations creates transit certainty, a critical factor for supporting the growth of compact communities. The state must work past the current 'volatile' state of transit finances, and find more stable annual revenue sources, including possibly charging drivers fees for using some roads or lanes during congested periods or charging drivers fees per mile they travel." Sacramento Bee (June 7, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-12-4963]

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